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# Urban District of Windermere



## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1956

KENDAL

TITUS WILSON & SON, LTD.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of  
Windermere.*

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District during the year 1956.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Public Health Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

**NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Area of the Urban District in acres ... ..         | 9,723    |
| Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate) | 6,410    |
| Inhabited Houses ... ..                            | 2,205    |
| Rateable Value ... ..                              | £110,254 |
| Product of a Penny Rate ... ..                     | £437     |
| Rate in the Pound levied ... ..                    | 17/9d.   |
| of which the County Rate was ... ..                | 13/0¼d.  |

The Urban District of Windermere lies in a long narrow strip down the east side of the Troutbeck Valley and for four miles along the east bank of Windermere Lake. The District slopes steeply from a level of about 800 feet in the east down to the Lake which lies at about 130 feet above sea level. The slopes are well wooded and exquisite vistas of most of the Lake District are obtainable throughout.

The geology of the Urban District comprises in the southern half steeply dipping Kirkby Moor Flag in the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System. In the northern half the rocks are Coniston Grits in the Wenlock Series of the Silurian System. At the extreme north in the Troutbeck Valley, there are thin beds of Taranon Shales, pale slates, Coniston Limestone, and then occur the Borrowdale Volcanic Series. There are occasional areas of glacial drift and some alluvial deposit in the valleys.

The climate is mild and equable. The valley bottoms are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and the open aspect to the south-west provides full access to sunshine. Temperature gradient inversions are frequent at night but are soon dispelled in the morning. The rainfall varies between 70 and 75 inches a year, but this figure is due more to the heaviness of the rain when it comes rather than to an undue proportion of rainy days. Snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is mainly residential in character with a seasonal influx of holiday visitors to enjoy the amenities of the National Park. This influx raises the population to a peak of approximately 10,000. The outlying portions of the District are mainly agricultural and many of the small local industries are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide a certain amount of local employment and stability to the area to balance the fluctuating conditions in the holiday trade:—

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Boatbuilding.       | Machine Tool Manufactory. |
| Coffin Manufactory. | Laundry.                  |
| Cake Manufactory.   | Motor Engineers.          |

The variety of these opportunities for local employment has, with emigration, kept Windermere happily free from unemployment. These industries, together with the trade associated with the hotels and boarding-houses, have provided that economic security and local prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of the public health.

### STAFF.

| Name           | Qualifications.                                  | Office.                             | Whole or Part Time. | Other Offices.  |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Madge, F. T.   | M.D., Ch.B.,<br>M.R.C.S.,<br>L.R.C.P.,<br>D.P.H. | Medical Officer of Health           | Part                | M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland                       |
| Needham, F. C. | M.I.Mun.E.,<br>M.R.S.I.,<br>M.R.I.C.S.           | Public Health Inspector to 31.3.56  | Part                | Surveyor and Water Engineer   |
| Shepherd, D.   | F.A.P.H.I.,<br>F.F.S.,<br>Cert. S.I.B.           | Public Health Inspector from 1.4.56 | Part                | Additional Public Health Inspector, South West-morland Rural District |
| Farrer, G. K.  | —  | Clerk to 13.11.56                   | Part                | Clerk to Surveyor and Water Engineer.                                 |
| Machell, B. M. | —  | Clerk to Medical Officer of Health  | Part                | Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland              |

### Staff Changes.

Mr. F. C. Needham retired on 31st March, 1956, and was succeeded on 1st April, 1956, by Mr. D. Shepherd as part-time public health inspector.

Miss Farrer retired on 13th November, 1956.

## COMMITTEES.

The Minister of Health requires me to include a list of your Council's committees which are concerned with matters of public health.

The Health Committee deal with the principal matters, but there are other aspects of public health importance which are dealt with by the Water and Housing Committees.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1955 for comparison.

Area of the District in acres ... .. 9,723

|   | 1955  | 1956  |
|---|-------|-------|
| Estimated civilian population (mid year) .. | 6,510 | 6,410 |
| Live Births. Legitimate— males .. ..        | 28    | 31    |
| females .. ..                               | 32    | 31    |
| Illegitimate— males .. ..                   | —     | 2     |
| females .. ..                               | —     | 1     |
| Total .. .. ..                              | 60    | 65    |
| Crude Rate per 1,000 population             | 9.2   | 10.1  |
| Corrected Rate per 1,000 popula-            |       |       |
| tion .. .. ..                               | 9.9   | 10.9  |
| Rate for England and Wales ..               | 15.1  | 15.7  |
| Still Births. Legitimate— males .. ..       | 1     | —     |
| females .. ..                               | —     | —     |
| Illegitimate— males .. ..                   | —     | —     |
| females .. ..                               | —     | —     |
| Total .. .. ..                              | 1     | —     |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and              |       |       |
| still) births .. .. ..                      | 16.4  | —     |
| Rate for England and Wales ..               | 23.1  | 23.0  |
| Deaths. males .. .. ..                      | 40    | 43    |
| females .. .. ..                            | 59    | 49    |
| Total .. .. ..                              | 99    | 92    |
| Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..          | 15.2  | 14.3  |
| Corrected Rate per 1,000 population         | 11.1  | 10.8  |
| Rate for England and Wales ..               | 11.7  | 11.7  |



|  | 1955 | 1956 |
|--|------|------|
| Infantile Deaths (under 1 year):                     |      |      |
| Legitimate .. .. .                                   | 2    | 2    |
| Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births                | 33.3 | 32.2 |
| Illegitimate .. .. .                                 | —    | —    |
| Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births              | —    | —    |
| Total deaths under 1 year .. ..                      | 2    | 2    |
| Rate per 1,000 live births .. ..                     | 33.3 | 30.7 |
| Rate for England and Wales ..                        | 24.9 | 23.8 |
| Neo-natal Deaths (under 1 month):                    |      |      |
| Total neo-natal deaths .. ..                         | 2    | 1    |
| Rate per 1,000 live births .. ..                     | 33.3 | 15.4 |
| Rate for England and Wales                           | 17.3 | 16.9 |
| Maternal Mortality:                                  |      |      |
| Total Deaths .. .. .                                 | —    | —    |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. . | —    | —    |
| Rate for England and Wales ..                        | 0.64 | 0.56 |

Deaths from certain causes:—

|                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Cancer         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17  | 17  |
| Measles        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil | Nil |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil | Nil |

The main causes of death were:—

|                                    |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Heart Disease                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Cancer                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |

## COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

### Population.

Your population at the 1951 Census was 6,315 persons, comprising 2,708 males and 3,607 females, an increase of 3.8% since the 1931 Census. The Registrar-General's current estimate of your civilian mid-year resident population was 6,410, a decrease of 100.

The general indication is that your population is fairly stable, but a proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one

year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

You have not maintained your population by your own reproduction. You have relied upon the yearly immigration of people from other areas to keep up your numbers. That is why you have a predominantly elderly population. The 1951 Census showed that the nett immigration since 1931 amounted to more than twice your natural decline by excess of death over births.

The 1951 Census also showed a daily total flow of between 800 and 900 people across the urban district boundary. It is some measure of the dormitory use of Windermere. 455 persons go out of Windermere daily to work elsewhere, made up of 331 men and 124 women. Just about half of them go to Kendal, a quarter go into Lakes U.D. and the remainder to Lancashire and other foreign parts.

On the other hand nearly the same number of outsiders come into Windermere to work. 409 of them, comprising 284 men and 125 women. Lakes U.D. contribute 144, Lancashire 130, South Westmorland R.D. 68, and Kendal another 57.

The daily interchange of talent probably reflects to some extent the rigidity of housing policy, but no doubt offers a glimpse of wider horizons. The 1951 Census revealed anyway that only some 55% of the people of Westmorland were born in the County.

### **Birth Rate.**

I have already referred to the continued low birth rate, now only two-thirds of the national rate. Apart from the local economic circumstances the effect of the two wars aggravated the position. If your native community is to survive you must raise your birth rate well above your death rate and to do that you will have to recapture and hold the faith of your young people in your local life. There are only just over half of them left now.

### **Still Birth Rate.**

Your still birth rate was satisfactory.

### **Death Rate.**

Your corrected death rate was slightly below the average for England and Wales, although the crude rate was much higher due to your elderly population.

### **Infantile and Neo-natal Deaths.**

Infantile deaths are deaths in children under the age of one year, and included in this figure are the neo-natal deaths, which are deaths in children under one month of age. There were two during the year.

### **Maternal Mortality.**

There were no maternal deaths.

## **PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143-170.*

*National Health Service Act, 1946. Part III.*

The general incidence of illness can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance offices. A logarithmic graph of those figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the years, and any variations are usually worth investigating.

1956 was a relatively light year for the ordinary notifiable diseases. The six cases of measles were associated with a large epidemic in Kendal, which happily did not spread much into Windermere.

The one case of paratyphoid B was in a local boarding-school for boys. The cause was believed to be outside our District, and there was no further spread.

It is pleasing to record that the notification of infectious disease has much improved in recent years, and I am very grateful to my colleagues in general practice for their prompt help in this respect. I look upon the control of notifiable diseases as one of the most important duties of our department. Patterns of thought change from time to time on these subjects, but the notifications provide the factual basis for controlling the spread of infections.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

|                      | Total | Ages |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |     |     |
|----------------------|-------|------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|--------|-----|-----|
|                      |       | 1-   | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 20- | 35- |                      |        | 45- | 65- |
| Scarlet Fever .. ..  | 1     | -    | -  | -  | -  | 1  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -                    | -      | -   | -   |
| Paratyphoid Fever .. | 1     | -    | -  | -  | -  | -  | 1  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -                    | -      | 1   | -   |
| Measles .. ..        | 6     | 1    | 1  | -  | 1  | 2  | 1  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -                    | -      | -   | -   |
| Whooping Cough ..    | 1     | 1    | -  | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -                    | -      | -   | -   |
| Pneumonia .. ..      | 1     | -    | -  | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -                    | -      | -   | 1   |
| Food Poisoning ..    | 1     | -    | -  | -  | -  | -  | 1  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -                    | -      | 1   | -   |
| TOTAL .. ..          | 11    | 2    | 1  | -  | 1  | 3  | 3  | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -                    | -      | 2   | 1   |



# TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis is the most important communicable disease of our time. Its prevention is primarily dependent upon social and economic factors in the general community, and secondarily upon the management of the established case. Your Council’s functions are three-fold: to investigate the source of infection, to prevent the spread of infection, and to remove conditions favourable to infection.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

| Age<br>Periods | NEW CASES        |   |                      |   | DEATHS           |   |                      |   |
|----------------|------------------|---|----------------------|---|------------------|---|----------------------|---|
|                | Respira-<br>tory |   | Non-res-<br>piratory |   | Respira-<br>tory |   | Non-res-<br>piratory |   |
|                | M                | F | M                    | F | M                | F | M                    | F |
| 0 ..           | —                | — | —                    | — | —                | — | —                    | — |
| 1 ..           | —                | — | —                    | — | —                | — | —                    | — |
| 5 ..           | 1                | — | —                    | — | —                | — | —                    | — |
| 15 ..          | —                | — | —                    | — | —                | — | —                    | — |
| 25 ..          | —                | — | —                    | — | —                | — | —                    | — |
| 35 ..          | —                | — | —                    | 1 | —                | — | —                    | — |
| 45 ..          | —                | — | —                    | — | —                | — | —                    | — |
| 55 ..          | 1                | — | —                    | 1 | —                | — | —                    | — |
| 65 ..          | —                | — | —                    | — | —                | — | —                    | — |
| Total ..       | 2                | — | —                    | 2 | —                | — | —                    | — |

The number of tuberculosis patients on the register at the year end were:—

|                 |     |    |
|-----------------|-----|----|
| Respiratory     | ... | 34 |
| Non-Respiratory | ... | 4  |
|                 |     | —  |
|                 |     | 38 |
|                 |     | —  |

## **Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.**

*National Health Service Act, 1946. Parts II and III.*

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, Manchester, at Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster, a modern and well-equipped building within easy reach of this area under modern transport conditions.

Smallpox cases will be admitted to the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital near Bury.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious diseases is provided by the Westmorland County Council and is based in Kendal.

## **Disinfection Arrangements.**

Disinfection facilities for clothing and bedding are not very satisfactory owing to the lack of a steam disinfecter. It is, however, possible to obtain the service from neighbouring authorities.

Disinfection of premises and other chattels is carried out locally and presents no special problems.

## **HOUSING.**

### **The Housing Acts, 1936-1954.**

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your District, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

### **Present Housing Position.**

*Housing Act, 1936. Section 57.*

The number of inhabited houses in your District is 2,205. With an estimated population of 6,410 the average number of persons per house is 2.9. This is not a high figure for a desirably sized family, but the 1951 Census showed that 259 houses had only one occupant, and another 614 houses had only two.

There appears to be little overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act which assumes that living-rooms are used also for sleeping purposes, and that the sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health or family relationships. At the time of the 1951 Census there were 1,977 private households living in 1,895 structurally separate dwellings.

It is probable that overcrowding is temporarily increased during the peak of the holiday season, but no certificates under Section 61 of the Housing Act, 1936, have been granted by your Council to authorise exceeding the permitted numbers.

### **General State of Houses.**

The general state of the property in your District is good. A few of the older houses are in poor condition. These old houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp-proof courses which cannot be remedied without excessive work in under-pinning. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a very slow process, but heavy repair costs and low rentals have made housing repairs unprofitable to the landlords. These sub-standard dwellings will in due course be dealt with under the Housing Act, but they are overwhelmingly outnumbered by the well maintained and sound property in your District, over a thousand of which have been built since 1901.

### **General Progress of Slum Clearance and Improvements.**

Westmorland as a whole has made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 600 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of these will eventually be demolished or converted to trade use, but about 15% of them have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards. In addition to these formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes for the renovation of sub-standard houses, either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house wherever possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity the sooner it is swept away the better.

In your own District a modest start was made in slum clearance after the war and preliminary inspections were made for future actions. The problem is not a very difficult one in Windermere and I think good progress can be made in pruning out and tidying up the decayed properties.

On the Calgarth estate there were 58 houses still occupied at the year end. 50 of them were Government owned. I hope that the removal of people from these very sub-standard huts will be hastened.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required your Council



to declare their proposals for dealing with sub-standard houses. You resolved to deal with the estimated 40 unfit houses within the next five years. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved the proposals, and they are now on deposit for public inspection.

### **Closing Orders.**

*Housing Act, 1936. Section 12.*

*Local Government Act, 1953. Section 10.*

Two closing orders were made during the year, and one further case was pending. Four orders were revoked on conversion of the block of disused flats into a shop in Rayrigg Road. There were 9 closing orders in the register of local land charges at the year end.

### **Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.**

*Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.*

One such formal undertaking was accepted during 1956. Certain disused buildings, subject to undertakings, were demolished, leaving 5 undertakings in the register of local land charges at the year end.

### **Undertakings to Repair.**

*Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.*

One such undertaking was accepted and satisfied during 1956 on No. 1, Lake View Villas, Bowness. None are now outstanding.

### **Improvement Grants.**

*Housing Act, 1949.*

Your Council decided to stop making grants. In previous years such grants were a useful means of saving and improving sub-standard houses.

### **Demolition Orders.**

*Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.*

No demolition orders were made during the year. Seven remain outstanding.

### **Clearance Areas.**

*Housing Act, 1936. Section 25.*

During 1955 two clearance areas were officially represented and declared. One comprised 3 houses at Bowness Bank, and the other contained 5 houses at Woodside, Bowness, only 3 of which were occupied. Formal action was proceeding at the year end to seek the confirmation of the Minister of Housing and Local Government.



## **Estimated Requirement for New Houses.**

*Housing Act, 1936. Section 71 (amended by Housing Act, 1949).*

In conjunction with your Building Surveyor I estimate that between 200 and 250 houses are required to meet the needs of those now without a separate house, those in sub-standard houses, and the 58 families to be rehoused from the Calgarth hutments.

At the year end there were 247 applicants on your Council's waiting list for rehousing.

## **Local Authority Housing Schemes.**

The erection of 192 houses and 56 flats on Droomer estate was nearly completed at the year end. 188 houses and 34 flats were already occupied. The new site at Droomer is in a healthy position to the east of Windermere village and it offers very promising opportunities for balanced development.

## **Housing Building Progress.**

Your post-war achievement is 256 houses completed by your Council and 66 by private enterprise. Houses under construction at the year end comprised 26 by your Council and 11 by private enterprise.

By private enterprise 9 dwellings were provided by the conversion of existing buildings during 1956, bringing the post-war total to 68.

## **Tenants Selection.**

The present method of selecting tenants for your Council houses is for your Housing Sub-Committee to consider all the applications and then select the tenants whom they consider are most in need of being rehoused. No points system is in operation and there is no anonymity.

## **Housing Management.**

Your Council now own 341 permanent dwellings. Routine repairs and maintenance are carried out partly by direct labour and partly by local contractors. Rents vary from 7/- to 21/- per week, exclusive of rates, and the rateable values of the Council houses are between £16 and £28.

The examination of rentals and rates may not seem at first to have much to do with public health, but it does have considerable significance. It is not unknown for persons who have been rehoused from poor quarters into modern Council houses to have to pay their rents and rates from the portion of their income which rightly belongs to the purchase of food. Domestic economy can affect the general standard of the public health almost as much as environmental conditions, and some attempt must be made to maintain a balance between these conflicting factors.

### **Verminous Houses.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Section 83-85.*

No action was necessary during the year.

### **Nuisances and Notices re Dwellings.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 99-100.*

During the year the following action was taken:—

|                          |     |    |
|--------------------------|-----|----|
| Informal Notices served  | ... | 35 |
| Statutory Notices served | ... | 2  |

In no case was it necessary to obtain an Abatement Order from the Court. There was a general desire on the part of owners to remedy the defects.

### **Certificates of Disrepair.**

*Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.*

There were no applications for certificates.

### **Dangerous Buildings.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Section 58.*

No formal action was taken during the year.

### **Parks and Open Spaces.**

Your Council has extensive parks and open spaces both around the Lake and on the surrounding heights. These form a very valuable amenity for the elderly and those who for various reasons enjoy leisurely contemplation of the mountains.

### **Bathing Facilities.**

A portion of Windermere Lake is marked off by stakes at Millerground. The bathing is safe from physical dangers and from any serious contamination as lake water flows naturally through the pool at all times. During 1955 I drew your Council's attention to the undesirability of visitors to Millerground drinking from Wynlass Beck which receives sewage effluents, and the cemetery drainage, not far upstream. I recommended warning notices and the provision of a water tap from the public main. I am also not satisfied with the drainage from certain premises in that area. Luckily the polluting sources are some distance from the bathing-pool. Indiscriminate excretion on the adjoining land presents another difficulty. I would not like to see the conditions at Millerground deteriorate much further.



## **Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 268-269.*

One licensed camping site was on the Register at the end of the year. No action was taken during the year. Your Council imposes conditions upon the grant of licences and requires their annual renewal. As this District is within the National Park it is most desirable that strict but unobtrusive supervision should be exercised over camping sites to ensure that the natural beauty of the country is not despoiled by the careless few.

Unlicensed camping sites are scattered throughout the District but very little nuisance arises from casual campers. The improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal cause little trouble, but the campers take water from polluted becks at their own risk.

One individual camping licence was in force at the year end.

## **WATER SUPPLIES.**

### **Water Act, 1945.**

My earlier Annual Reports provided a very detailed account of the historical, geographical, geological and technical features of your two sources of public water supply at Dubbs and Ghyll Head. This year's report will be limited to progress records.

The public water supply is potentially adequate in quantity and now very satisfactory in quality. The results of laboratory examinations of the water samples taken during the year are set out in Appendix "A". Regular sampling of both raw and treated waters is carried out.

Droughts place a great strain upon the supplies, and water shortage at the height of the tourist season can be very embarrassing. The annual rainfall is more than adequate, and the problem resolves itself into either increasing storage at the elevation which can be secured at Dubbs and Borrans, or by remedying the enormous waste of water in the distribution system.

The wastage probably occurs in the mains and service pipes as the records of the flow at night show a fairly level loss of about ten thousand gallons per hour. This recorded leakage has existed for over a quarter of a century, and a comprehensive division of the area with valves and a programme of waste detection during the night would probably avoid or postpone capital expenditure on increased head-works. Alternatively it would be of considerable advantage if ways could be found to utilise Borrans compensation water reservoir as an ancillary supply, particularly as your new housing estate at Droomer can be supplied by gravity only from Dubbs, which will have to assume the burden.

### **Dubbs Supply.**

The sanitary arrangements at the annual sheep dog trials held on your gathering ground were under my personal supervision during the year.

The installation of the chlorinator at Dubbs has removed many of the previous difficulties of safeguarding that supply. The recent sample results have been excellent.

### **Ghyll Head Supply.**

The condition of the headworks has deteriorated. Negotiations for acquisition of the gathering ground have been in progress for very many years. On the whole Ghyll Head is not a very desirable source of supply, although by filtration, alkalisation, and chlorination it is made usable. I would prefer to see its abandonment if a less troublesome and risky source could be found.

In conclusion, I have to advise your Council that the other recommendations contained in Memorandum 221 of the Ministry of Health should be constantly observed. Your Council has a double responsibility of supplying pure water as undertakers, and of safeguarding the health of your population as a Sanitary Authority.

The Water Engineer informs me that the number of houses connected to the public supply is about 2,099, which leaves 106 reliant upon private supplies. There are stated to be no houses supplied from standpipes.

I have no official knowledge of the quantity of the private water supplies, but I suspect that the quality of the average supply fluctuates widely and I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals and that if in doubt they should boil it.

### **General Provision of Baths and Sinks.**

The 1951 Census showed that your District held 1,977 households, of which 510, or about a quarter had no fixed bath, 32 of them had no kitchen sink.

## **SEWERAGE.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 14-15.*

The greater part of your District is provided with public sewerage which was installed or relaid during the last 50 years.

Sewage has to be pumped to Tower Wood at two points in the system. The first pump is situated at Calgarth and the second at



Bowness Bay. There are storm water overflows in connection with each of these plants for the excess to pass directly into the Lake. The dry weather flow of sewage received at Tower Wood was estimated to be 600,000 gallons per day, which is a high figure for the population served by the sewerage system, and suggests considerable infiltration water. As prolonged dry weather is not common in your District, the normal working level of the flow under average climatic conditions is between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 gallons per day, which is rather a dilute sewage.

The general provision of plant is satisfactory for producing a good effluent. The load on the works could be reduced considerably if infiltration water could be diverted.

The majority of the houses which are not in the sewage area use cesspools and septic tanks. A few pail-closets still exist in some of the older property, and a few privies and privy-middens are in use in the outlying parts of the District. The 1951 Census showed that 52 households were without water-closets, and a further 129 shared one. There were no conversions to water-closets during the year.

### **Public Conveniences.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Section 72.*

Public conveniences are sited at Bowness Bay, Pinfold, New Road, Broad Street, Queen's Park and Glebe Road.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

### **Refuse Collection.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Section 72.*

Domestic refuse is collected from the whole of your District with the exception of a few detached and isolated dwellings. Your Council's own vehicles and staff are used for this work.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Section 76.*

Refuse is tipped at Braithwaite Fold, Bowness. Controlled tipping is the aim, but the local scarcity of covering material has from time to time caused undesirably extensive tip faces with consequent nuisance to the surrounding residential district.

I consider that Braithwaite Fold has had its day as a tip. As long ago as 1950 your Council sought a compulsory purchase order to acquire a new site at Lindeth Tarn, well away from the populous area. This land was fenced in during 1953 and a screen of trees planted

in readiness for tipping to commence. This new site offers scope for many years, and if the recently instituted technique of controlled tipping is maintained there will be a minimum of nuisance to the district. The sooner we get there the better.

### **Street Cleansing.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Section 77.*

This work is undertaken by the Highways Department and the streets are well maintained.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS.**

### **General Powers.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne diseases. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture, preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

### **Precautions against Contamination.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*

*Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.*

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most traders are aware of the fact. The good food trader does not need official instruction in basic cleanliness or in the enforcement of legal minimum standards. He may welcome advice on technical problems, but his aim is how high he can get, not how low he can get away with.

We have now passed the stage of educational approach. A small minority of food traders have remained untouched by years of hygiene propaganda, unmoved by conscience, and unwilling to believe that the law need apply to them as they pursue their unsweet ways. They now know what to expect.

The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader, as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home. Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

**Ice-Cream Trade.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.*  
*Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.*

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

|  |        |    |
|--|--------|----|
| Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale | ...    | 3  |
| Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale          | ... .. | 1  |
| Storage and sale only                              | ... .. | 33 |

**Prepared Meats.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.*  
The number of premises on the Register under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat, pressed meat and pickled food was 16 at the year end. No particular difficulties have been encountered in these trades.

**MILK.**

**Registration of Milk Distributors and Dairies which are not Dairy Farms.**

*Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

|   |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Total number of registered distributors | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| „ „ dairies                             | ... | ... | ... | 1  |

The retail distribution of milk is both by bottled milk and the old-fashioned loose methods. Traders are becoming keener to meet the desire of the enlightened customers for bottling.

**Cleanliness of Milk.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*  
No samples were taken during the year.

**Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*  
No samples were taken for biological test.  
It was not necessary to stop any milk supply or restrict the activities of any milk-handlers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations on account of infectious disease.

**Designated Milks.**

*Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.*  
Your District Council is responsible for the granting of dealers' and supplementary annual licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milks. 11 licences were in force during the year.



### **Condemnation of Meat.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*

All slaughtering is carried out at the Kendal Abattoir where the meat is inspected by the Borough Inspectors. None was condemned during distribution within your District.

### **Condemnation of Other Foods.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*

The following foodstuffs were condemned by your Inspector during the year:—

About 8 cwts. of assorted tinned foods and 1 cwt. of biscuit powder.

### **Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.**

The Minister of Health requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this District it is buried at Braithwaite Fold Tip.

## **GENERAL INSPECTIONS.**

From 1st April, 1956, the major revision of your Council's staff split the longstanding combined appointment of Engineer and Surveyor with Public Health Inspector. The new arrangement provides for the sharing of a Public Health Inspector with the neighbouring Rural District Council of South Westmorland.

Mr. Shepherd devotes four sessions per week, made up of two whole days, to his Public Health Inspection duties at Windermere. The arrangement seems to be working very well in practice, 315 inspections were carried out during the year.

### **Offensive Trades.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.*

There are no offensive trades in the District.

### **Factories.**

*Factories Act, 1937.*

There are 58 factories on the Register. 24 inspections were made. No written notices were issued and no prosecutions were required. No references were made to H.M. Inspector and none were received from him.

No lists of outworkers were supplied to your Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect.



There are no basement bakehouses in the District. No detailed survey has yet been taken of the means of escape from factories in case of fire.

Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Minister of Labour and National Service giving details of your District's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

**Inspections.**

| Premises.  | Number of Premises. | Number of    |                  |                       |
|--|---------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
|  |                     | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Occupiers prosecuted. |
| Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..                      | 8                   | 3            | —                | —                     |
| Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .. ..                       | 50                  | 21           | —                | —                     |
| Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. | —                   | —            | —                | —                     |
| Total .. ..  | 58                  | 24           | —                | —                     |

No defects were found.

**Shops Act, 1950.**

11 visits were made under the Shops Act for the supervision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and the maintenance of suitable temperatures.

**Common Lodging Houses.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Part IX.*

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

**Rent Restriction Acts.**

No action was taken during the year under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts, and no contraventions of Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1936, regarding rent book entries were encountered.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

*Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 101-106.*

No notices were served during the year to abate smoke nuisances.

### **Laboratory Services.**

*National Health Service Act, 1946. Section 17.*

The Laboratory attached to Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal provided many of the necessary examinations of material obtained by the Department. The laboratory has given extremely valuable service to the southern part of the County.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948.**

One elderly lady was brought to my notice for consideration of her compulsory removal to hospital, but happily she consented to go voluntarily.

Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with, and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

### **Byelaws.**

Byelaws on public health matters are in force for:—

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Building.              | Nuisances.       |
| Burial Grounds.        | Slaughterhouses. |
| Common-Lodging Houses. | Pleasure Ground. |
| Food handling.         |                  |

### **New Legislation.**

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, became operative 1st January, 1956.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, became operative 1st January, 1956.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, became operative 31st December, 1956.

The Slum Clearance Compensation Act, 1956, became operative 2nd August, 1956.

# APPENDIX "A".

## Laboratory Examination of the Public Water Supplies.

| Nature of Test        | Standards<br>Max. | Dubbs<br>Raw | Ghyll<br>Head<br>Raw | Ghyll<br>Head<br>Treated |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Pr. coli count 37° .. | 3-10              | 50           | 11                   | 3                        |
| Faecal coli/strep ..  | 0                 | +            | +                    | +                        |
| Character .. ..       | —                 | Clear        | Clear                | Clear                    |
| Reaction .. ..        | —                 | 7.0          | 6.8                  | 8.4                      |
| Ammonical Nitrogen    | .041              | .014         | .041                 | .033                     |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen   | .066              | .089         | .128                 | .097                     |
| Total Solids .. ..    | 1000              | 39           | 42                   | 100                      |
| Hardness {            | Total ..          | 34           | 40                   | 30                       |
|                       | Carbonate         | 4            | 5                    | 0                        |
|                       | Non-Carb          | 30           | 35                   | 30                       |
| Chlorides .. ..       | 30                | 9            | 10.0                 | 8.5                      |
| Nitrates .. ..        | 1                 | —            | —                    | —                        |
| Nitrates .. ..        | —                 | —            | —                    | —                        |
| O.2 Absorbed .. ..    | 1                 | .089         | 2.72                 | 1.40                     |
| Heavy Metals .. ..    | 0                 | 0            | 0                    | 0                        |
| Rainfall 24 hours ..  | —                 | Nil          | Nil                  | .06"                     |
| Date Sampled .. ..    | —                 | 4.11.55      | 30.10.55             | 25.11.53                 |
| Laboratory .. ..      | —                 | Carlisle     | Carlisle             | Carlisle                 |

Chemical analyses expressed in parts per million.







